

point. I think they wanted the legal services out, but beyond that they didn't...as a whole we've been working with the administration on developing this bill to give them a better management tool. And so that those large scale service contracts there was some sunshine so to speak so everybody sees what is going on with them and everybody in the private sector that has the ability to perform that service can at least get to the table and lay down their bid. Once again, I want to reiterate for the third or fourth time, in no way, shape or form does this bill or the committee amendments require that the lowest bid automatically be taken. It does not require that at all. It simply says that it is bid and if you...if an agency obviously chooses the higher bid, they're going to have to justify why they did that, whereas now, not only don't they bid it, it could be the highest bid and nobody is ever going to know because it was never bidden out. So I think it opens up the process, it makes a lot of sense from a management perspective, I think it helps us out to defend why we're doing things. Obviously, under our present circumstances it's only after the fact that we know things are going on and possibly maybe at the completion of whatever it is that was contracted, I have had several situations myself where ordinary people have said, why did we ever sign a contract with that company? Was there some bias built in in the beginning? I think this process protects government in the long term by saying, no, we bid it out, everybody got a chance to come to the table, I think it's good. So with that, that's an explanation, a general explanation of the bill. I'd ask for the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Hudkins announces the following guest is visiting the Legislature, Lisa Tjarks from Raymond Central High School is a member of Future Business Leaders of Nebraska, is under the north balcony. Lisa, will you stand and be recognized. Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LB 322. Another piece of legislation that was introduced by Senator Warner and myself dealt with some of the aspects of the bill. The committee amendment took some elements of that other piece of legislation and placed them in this bill. I think the committee and the bill are intended to set a structure in place that allows for full consideration and information before taking action on bids or privatization. I'm thinking back to the child support